THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) and (b) At the invitations of the Chiefs of General Staff of the Polish Armed Forces and the Czech Armed Forces, Chief of the Army Staff General V.P. Malik undertook goodwill visits to Poland during May 11-15, 1999 and to the Czech Republic during May 16—19, 1999. As is the normal practice, the goodwill visits of the Chief of the Army Staff to Poland and the Czech Republic were planned well in advance following mutual consultation with the host countries. The initial report indicating the presence of some infiltrators in the Batalik Sector was received at Army HQ on May 8, 1999. At that point of time, the magnitude of the infiltration was assessed as limited and an appropriate response against the infiltrators was initiated at the lower formation level. Hence, it was considered not necessary to cancel the visit of the Chief of the Army Staff.

(c) Not applicable, in view of (a) and (b) above.

Residential Certificate For Non-Bengali Recruits

1360. SHRI DAWA LAMA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that any order has been issued recently in West Bengal directing compulsory submission of residential certificate from D.M. only for non-Bengali aspirants to be recruited in Army;

(b) if so, what is the reaction of Government for this type of discriminatory order; and

(c) the action proposed by Government to withdraw the order?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) No such order has been issued by Government of India.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.